

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
SECSTATE WASHDC 2562

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BJELKE-PETERSEN, JOH), EGEN, AS
SUBJ: QUEENSLAND PREMIER TO VISIT JAPAN

1. AMCONSULATE BRISBANE REPORTS THAT THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND, JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN, WILL BE LEADING A SMALL TRADE DELEGATION TO JAPAN MARCH 8-22. THE PREMIER AND HIS PARTY WILL BE IN TOKYO THROUGH MARCH 11 AND WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL IMPERIAL. MR. BJELKE-PETERSEN IS SCHEDULED TO SEE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND THE CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ON MARCH 10. HIS TOKYO SCHEDULE WILL INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH EXECUTIVE OF NIPPON STEEL, KAWASAKI STEEL, MITSUI, MITSUBISHI AND MORUBZI. DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 11-22, THE PREMIER'S PARTY WILL VISIT KOGUSHIWA, FUKUOKA, OSHIMA ISLAND, AND OTHER FACILITIES AS THE GUEST OF YOHACHIRU IWASAKI.

2. BJELKE-PETERSEN, THE FEISTY NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY (CONSERVATIVE) PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND, IS AN OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF COMPETITION, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, FOREIGN
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INVESTMENT, AND GENERAL LAISSEZ-FAIRE ECONOMIC POLICIES. HE BELIEVES IN TALKING TOUGH, A RUNS A NO-NONSENSE GOVERNMENT IN WHAT IS PROBABLY AUSTRALIA'S MOST DYNAMIC, FASTEST GROWING BOOM STATE. HE HAS WELCOMED AMERICAN, JAPANESE AND OTHER FOREIGN INVESTMENT, BUT HE IS NOT SHY ABOUT ENGAGING IN A FULL-SCALE SCRAP IF HE PERVEIVES THE NEED TO DO SO: ACSE IN POINT IS QUEENSLAND'S

RUNNING FEUD WITH THE JAPANESE OVER THE LATTER'S PURCHASE OF QUEENSLAND SUGAR. QUEENSLAND ALSO EXPORT COKING COAL AND OTHER MINERALS TO JAPAN. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS HERE THAT BJELKE-PETERSEN INTENDS TO SEEK TO PERSUADE THE JAPANESE TO INCREASE THEIR PURCHASE OF QUEENSLAND PRODUCTS, SUCH AS COAL, SUGAR, MEAT AND CITRUS PRODUCTS. HE MAY ALSO TRY TO SELL THE JAPANESE ON FURTHER INVESTMENTS IN QUEENSLAND.

3. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR REPORTS FROM TOKYO AND FUKUOKA ON BJELKE-PETERSEN'S VISIT IF IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE. MANY THANKS.
ALSTON

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